



KENNETH A. GIBSON

MAYOR
NEWARK, NEW JERSEY
07102

MAY 9, 1978

ELECTION NIGHT STATEMENT BY MAYOR KENNETH A. GIBSON

My thanks to all of you. My thanks to the people of the City of Newark who voted to re-elect me as Mayor of Newark for the third term. My thanks to the many campaign workers, who brought my campaign to the people. My thanks for the hundreds of people who supported my re-election efforts. All of you have helped to make me feel good because I want to continue as Mayor of Newark.

More importantly, the people of the City of Newark have told the demagogues we want moderation, and that there is no room in Newark for the demagogues. That is how I view this third term vote.

The people of the City of Newark have told the cynics: We don't believe you. The people have said to the cynics: Sneer if you want to; be of little faith if you choose to; doubt our abilities to change our city if you want to be blind to the facts -- But the people of Newark are moving on up. Yes, we are moving on up, and we will move around, under or over any obstacles in our way to a better life for all of our people in this great city. This is how I view this third term vote.

The people of Newark have said to those who would divide us: that we have gotten it together, because we put it together, and there is no power in Newark or any place else that is going to stop us from keeping it together. This is how I view this third term vote.

The people of Newark have said they want a government of inclusion, not exclusion; and an atmosphere in our city that will demonstrate the beauty of varying cultures; But will show how we can act as one people for the economic and social good of all. This is how I view this third term vote.

The people of Newark didn't want to change the administration, but this does not mean that we don't want conditions in Newark changed. Our people have elected me to continue working for progressive change in our city. When the citizens of Newark voted for Ken Gibson, our voters were voting for change, not just for me as Mayor.

The people of Newark were not voting for the same educational system which we have, but more, better, and faster positive changes in that system. Our citizens want students who are capable in reading, mathematics, and a better knowledge of the city, state, nation, and the world in which they live. We want our students ready to take on life. I pledge my administration to do all which is humanly possible to bring about these changes. This is how I view this third term vote.

✓ The people of Newark want a cleaner city. No, we want a clean city. My Administration is going to clean-up Newark and keep it clean. We are going to take all of the positive steps necessary to do this with the least amount of conflict. However, if we have to engage in conflict to clean-up Newark, we will. There will be no more excuses from administrators, city workers, citizens or businesses which will be acceptable. ✓ The only thing my administration will accept is a clean city. This is a change we must make for the morale of our people, the image of Newark, and the health of our community. This is how I view this third term vote.

We have made impressive changes in improving the health of our citizens in Newark. However, change is not enough; an absolutely healthy Newark is our goal. This administration will do everything we can in Newark to attain this goal, but there is another administration in Washington. I am going to lobby as hard and as often as necessary to get a national health plan. And I give less than a tinker's damn what the people who oppose a national program think. I know the people in Newark are tired of seeing entire families wiped-out economically because of serious and sometimes not so serious illnesses. This has to stop. This is how I view this third term vote.

Yes, we are moving on up in Newark. It would be nice if we could change our national image in the process. However, image doesn't educate; image doesn't clean; image doesn't produce jobs, because developers deal in hard facts; image does not make you healthier; and image will not provide you with an apartment or home. Let's just move on up in Newark, and let the image catch-up with us.

Friends, neighbors, citizens -- let's keep it together, by continuing to work together.

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